

## PROJECT OVERVIEW



### **Bowling Green Eastern Outer Beltline Planning Study Purpose, Issues, Schedule, and Project Goals From Scottsville Road (US 231) to I-65 Warren County Item No. 03-103.00**



### **Study Purpose**

The purpose of this Planning Study is to identify and evaluate alternate freeway corridors, including the “no-build” alternate, for the Bowling Green Eastern Outer Beltline from I-65 south of Bowling Green to I-65 northeast of Bowling Green. The termini of the Eastern Outer Beltline may be adjusted depending upon the extent to which a preferred corridor for I-66 between the Nunn (Cumberland) Parkway and the Natcher Parkway coincides with a complete Outer Beltline from I-65 south of Bowling Green to the Natcher Parkway northwest of Bowling Green. The study will determine whether one or more corridors will be further examined in preliminary engineering and environmental studies to complete an Outer Beltline for Bowling Green.

Aspects of the Bowling Green Outer Beltline first appeared in the *1972 Bowling Green Transportation Plan* and were carried forward into the 1983 Bowling Green Transportation Plan. The Outer Beltline concept was further defined in the *1990 Comprehensive Plan for Warren County* and included in the *2000 Bowling Green Transportation Plan*.

The objectives of this study for the Bowling Green Outer Beltline are:

- To identify and evaluate potential corridors;
- To determine if these corridors are technically feasible;
- To identify the potential impacts the corridors may have on the human and natural environment; and
- To determine if any corridor can be supported by the public.

### **Issues**

The *1972 Bowling Green Transportation Plan* proposed a Northern Connector Route from US 31W (Louisville Road) at KY 446 to the Natcher Parkway in the vicinity of KY 2665 (Glen Lily Road). In conjunction with the Natcher Parkway and I-65, this new facility would complete an “outer loop” of the urban area, and would divert traffic from interior major arteries. The 1990 Comprehensive Plan extended the “outer loop” concept to include an eastern section from I-65 at the Natcher Parkway to I-65 east of KY 446 to relieve I-65 and serve growth east of I-65, and pushed the northern section farther north to join the Natcher Parkway near Westbrook Creek. In the *2000 Bowling Green Transportation Plan*, the “outer loop” corridor was pushed further out to the vicinity of the Sunnyside-Gotts Road overpass of I-65, the KY 626 overpass of the Natcher Parkway at Hadley, and the planned Natcher Parkway Extension at Scottsville Road.

At the present time, the extension of Natcher Parkway from I-65 to US 231 (Scottsville Road) near Dye Ford Road is programmed for construction, but an extension farther eastward may be difficult due to development. Accordingly, the southern termini of the Eastern Outer Beltline could be located anywhere between the Natcher Parkway at US 231 southward and I-65 in the vicinity of the proposed Southwest Parkway (running from US 31W to I-65). The *2000 Bowling Green Transportation Plan* documents significant congestion problems on I-65 east of Bowling Green and US 31W north of Bowling Green in the year 2020. Thus, the Outer Beltline was proposed as a means for relieving congestion.

As a planning study for the connection of I-66 from the Natcher Parkway to the Nunn (Cumberland) Parkway is being conducted concurrently with the Bowling Green Eastern Beltline Study, the termini of the Eastern Outer Beltline Study may change to establish a complete beltline in conjunction with the preferred corridor for I-66.

## **Project Schedule**

The Bowling Green Eastern Outer Beltline is identified in the Long-Range Element of the KYTC 1999 *Statewide Transportation Plan* (FY 1999-2018) as an “illustrative highway project” (i.e., source of funding unknown). In the *KYTC 2000 Six Year Highway Plan* (titled the *Approved 2000-2002 Biennial Highway Construction Program and Identified Preconstruction Program Plan for FY 2003 through FY 2006*), the Eastern Outer Beltline is scheduled only for a planning study. No subsequent phases are programmed at this time.

## **Draft Statement of Project Goals**

Preliminary project goals for the Bowling Green Outer Beltline are as follows:

- Accommodate the transportation needs of the Bowling Green urban area by completing an Outer Beltline, a highway that can only be accessed by interchanges, consistent with the *2000 Bowling Green Urban Transportation Study*.
- Reduce existing and forecasted traffic congestion on the highway network in Warren County by diverting traffic to a new facility.
- Strengthen the regional highway network by improving the connectivity to other major roads in the region.
- Provide improved access to major employment activity centers, regional retail activity centers, major educational and health facility concentrations, and regional recreation facilities in Warren County.

## **Contacts**

Address written comments to:

Annette Coffey, P.E.  
Director  
Kentucky Transportation Cabinet  
Division of Planning  
125 Holmes Street  
Frankfort, KY 40622

Or you may contact by phone:

Daryl Greer  
Kentucky Transportation Cabinet  
Division of Planning  
(502) 564-7183  
daryl.greer@mail.state.ky.us

Jeff Moore  
Kentucky Transportation Cabinet  
District 3 Planning  
(502) 746-7898  
jeff.moore@mail.state.ky.us